ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Ir alloy firing tips are bonded on opposed surfaces of a center electrode and a ground electrode facing to a discharge gap. The configuration of a cross-sectional area of the Ir alloy firing tip taken along a plane perpendicular to the axis of the Ir alloy firing tip is out of round. In this cross-sectional area of this Ir alloy firing tip, when it is assumed that a circumscribed circle has a largest diameter A among virtual circles each contacting at least three portions of a visible outline of the cross-sectional area and an inscribed circle has a largest diameter B among inscribed circles each being coaxial with the circumscribed circle, a ratio of the diameter B to the diameter A (i.e., B/A) is equal to or larger than 0.8 and is less than 1.0.